

SURVEY NAME	National Health Interview Survey (NHIS)
SPONSOR	Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS)
MODE OF ADMINISTRATION	Personal interview in households, using a Computer-Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) since 1997, administered by professional interviewers. Telephone for non-response follow-up. Conducted in English and Spanish (for CAPI, Spanish version was initiated in mid-1998).
SURVEY SAMPLE DESIGN	The NHIS uses a stratified multi-stage probability design that permits a continuous sampling of 358 primary sampling units (PSUs), with over-sampling of African Americans and Hispanics. A typical NHIS sample for the data collection years 1995-2004 consists of approximately 7,000 second-stage units (segments) within a PSU. The expected sample of 43,000 occupied respondent households yields a probability sample of about 111,000 persons. The survey is designed so that the sample scheduled for each week is representative of the target population and the weekly samples are additive over time.
RESPONSE RATES	Response rates for the basic NHIS core questionnaire have ranged from 94 to 98 percent over the years, with rates of sample person components generally ranging from 85-90 percent of eligible respondents. Response rates for special health topics (supplements) have generally also been in this lower range. The effect, if any, of the new CAPI technology is not yet known.
PRIMARY SURVEY CONTENT	Information is obtained on demographic characteristics, illnesses, injuries, impairments, chronic conditions, utilization of health resources, health insurance, and other health topics. The core household interview asks about everyone in the household. Additional questions are asked of one sample adult and one sample child (under 18 years) per family in the household. The Sample Adult questionnaire includes chronic health conditions and limitations in activity, health behaviors, health care access, health care provider contacts, immunizations, and AIDS knowledge and attitudes. The Sample Child questionnaire includes questions about chronic health conditions, limitation of activities, health status, behavior problems, health care access and utilization, and immunizations. Child data are proxy-reported by a parent or other knowledgeable adult respondent. Adult sample person data are all self-report. Special modules are fielded periodically, and cover areas such as cancer, prevention, and disability.
POPULATION TARGETED	Civilian, non-institutionalized population residing in the United States.
DEMOGRAPHIC DATA	Sex, age, race/Hispanic ethnicity, education, income, marital status, place of birth, industry, and occupation.
YEARS COLLECTED	Continuously since 1957. Current sample design began in 1995; current questionnaire design began in 1997.
SCHEDULE	Annual
GEOGRAPHIC ESTIMATES POSSIBLE	National; 4 regions.
NOTES	The NHIS is a cross-sectional survey; thus, causal factors of illness cannot be determined. Persons who are patients in long-term care facilities, persons on active duty with the Armed Forces, and U.S. Nationals living in foreign countries are excluded.